

## Upazila roundup

## JAMALPUR

## Tk 31 lakh for 7 development projects

Mar 9: Jamalpur District Council has undertaken seven development projects at an estimated cost of Taka 30,79,695 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said the work of the projects include construction of a Dukbanglow, union parishad buildings and a passenger shed.

Construction work will be started soon and is expected to be completed by June next.

## DINAJPUR

## Kancha latrines create health hazard

From Our Correspondent

Mar 9: The kancha latrines which are on use in largescale posing health hazard to the residents of Dinajpur and Parbatipur towns.

Most of the house owners in the densely populated areas have constructed kancha latrines besides their dwelling houses creating health and sanitation problems in the town.

Besides, there are innumerable kancha latrines by the sides of different roads in pourashava areas create much annoyance to the pedestrians. The situation becomes worse during the rainy season.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Interest-free loans distributed

From Our Correspondent

Mar 9: The Social Service Department, Belkuchi under Sirajganj district in collaboration with UNICEF disbursed interest-free loans amounting to Taka 1,79,800 among 967 beneficiaries of four unions of the district.

The unions are Belkuchi, Rajapur, Doulatpur and Bhangabari.

The local Social Service Officer informed that 107 women and 860 men would be benefited by the interest-free loan.

Samar Chandra Sinha, UNO, Belkuchi presided over the loan distributing ceremony.

It can be mentioned here that since 1984-85 fiscal year the Social Service Department, Belkuchi distributed Taka 6,60,000 as interest-free loan among the landless people. Eightyfive per cent loans have been refunded.

## SAVAR

## 20 business establishments gutted

Mar 9: Twenty business establishments including six ration shops were gutted by fire at Savar Cantonment Market near Nabinagar Area on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

Preliminary estimate puts the loss at Taka 40 lakh.

Witnessed said, the fire originated from a Motor Workshop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops.

Fire Brigade from Dhaka and Mymensingh rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after battling for one and a half hours. Army personnel from Savar Cantonment also extended help bring the fire under control.

Local people blamed shot circuit for the fire.

## JHENIDAH

## Hotel workers demand salary, Eid bonus

Mar 9: About one hundred hotel workers brought out a procession at the town demanding Ramzan salary and Eid bonus during the closure of hotels, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares and chanted slogans in favour of their demands.

Later, they went to the Deputy Commissioner's office and urged him to take effective Measures to implement their demands.

## SUNAMGANJ

## Week-long eye camp held

Mar 9: A week-long eye camp was held at Habibpur village in Jagannathpur Upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

The camp was sponsored by Shah Abru Miah in collaboration with Rotary Club of Jalalabad, Sylhet and Sunamganj Samity.

About 50 cataract patients were operated upon successfully while 150 eye patients were given primary treatment, the sources added.

## JESSORE

## 110 Indian cattle seized

Mar 9: Bangladesh Rifles seized 110 Indian cattle worth about Taka 11 lakh from border areas here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, a contingent of BDR led by Lt Col Mobarak raided the Navaran border areas in Sharsha Upazila of the district. Sensing the arrival of the BDR, the smugglers managed to escape leaving the cattle behind.

The contraband good was later handed over to the customs authorities.

A case has been filed in this connection but no one has so far been arrested.

## PIROJPUR

## Tk 1.69 cr agri loan to be distributed

Mar 9: Sonali Bank will disburse Taka 1.69 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Of the total, Taka 54 lakh will be distributed for boro cultivation, Taka 4 lakh for sugarcane cultivation, Taka 10 lakh for wheat cultivation, Taka 10 lakh for aus cultivation, Taka 66 lakh for aman cultivation and Taka 25 lakh for cultivation of other crops.

An official source said, distribution of loan has already been started and will continue till June next.

## CHAPAINAWABGANJ

## Trafficker held with 3 women

From Our Correspondent

Mar 9: A squad of BDR jawans of 31 Battalion arrested one woman trafficker along with 3 Bangladeshi women at Singnagar boarder area of Bholahat Upazila under Chapainawabganj district recently.

It is informed that the lady trafficker, Sekander Ali of Indrpur under Bhot Thana, Delhi was taking these three women, Shafali (24) Margina (24) and Shahela (35) of Gomastapur Upazila under Chapainawabganj district to India.

The BDR personnel arrested them when they were crossing the border.

## RAJSHAHI

## Procession to welcome Ramadan

Mar 9: Jamaat-E-Islami, city unit, brought out a large procession on Wednesday here to welcome the holy Ramadan, a month of self-purification, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the different mahallas and markets of the city chanting slogans in favour of preserving the sanctity of Ramadan. Thousands of Jamaat workers carried banners and festoons urging people not to do anything contrary to the purity of the holy month.

Earlier a brief rally was held at Halem Khan Sadar Hospital crossing which was addressed by the city Ameer Ataur Rahman. He urged the people to maintain the sanctity of Ramadan. 'We should accept and practise the instructions of Allah and observe Siam (Fasting) property and pray to Him for the salvation of the mankind,' he said.

## AGRI-VARSITY

## Seminar on multicrop seeddrill

Mar 9: A seminar on Development of Multicrop Seeddrill under the auspices of the Central Seminar Committee of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was held on March 3, reports UNB.

Presided over by Prof R.I. Sarkar, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, the seminar was attended by Dr. Zahidul Haque and Dr. Anwar Alam of International Jute Organisation (IJO) as the special guests.

The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by M.A. Wahab, an M.Sc. (Agri. Engg) student under the department of Farm Power and Machinery (FPM).

It may be mentioned that the seeder machine was developed under a research project sponsored jointly by IJO and BAURES headed by Dr A. T. M. Ziauddin of the Department of FPM.

In his speech as special guest, Dr Anwar Alam stated that the agricultural mechanisation was gaining popularity in all parts of the world including the developing countries with the passage of time.



PABNA: The students of Edward University College and members of Chhatra League brought out a procession against the demolition of local Shahid Minar by some unknown miscreants. — Star photo

## No rail service in Satkhira, trade faces setback

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 9: The trade and commerce of the district could not develop up to the mark for want of railway communications.

The huge quantity of fish available in the district and the resources of the Sunderbans are sold in the local markets at a comparatively cheaper rate due to absence of adequate transport facilities.

The demand for railway route through the district dates back to the beginning of the century.

A scheme was prepared by the then British Government to connect Satkhira with Calcutta by a railway route. The execution of the plan was stopped with the beginning of World War I in 1914.

The then authorities of the Eastern Railway of India decided to extend railway services to Satkhira. This decision was taken with a view to flourishing trade and commerce as the development of trade and

commerce mainly depends on the better communications. It was also decided that a express and a local train services would run between Satkhira and Calcutta-via Navaron.

The execution of the scheme was scheduled to begin in the month of January, 1914. The earth work on Navaron-Satkhira rail line began and the said work was on satisfactory progress. In Irish Engineer who was in charge of the Railway Construction Division visited the site several occasions for successful completion of the work.

When the earth work of this broad gauge line was about to be completed, the World War I began. Later, the British government abandoned the work for fund crisis.

After independence, the people of Satkhira were assured of the earliest set up of railway lines with the other parts of the country, on several occasions.

The people of Satkhira were assured of setting up of Navaron-Betkhali railway communication. But till now, no plan has been taken.

The Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway has 1713-mile rail routes connecting most of the districts. But Satkhira being one of the biggest district is still denied the railway service facility.

The introduction of railway communication would help flourish trade and commerce in the district.

It may be mentioned here that this demand raised before honourable Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her recent visit to Satkhira for inaugurating the second phase of the Nilkomal of the Sunderban Textile Mills.

The Prime Minister in her inaugural speech assured that her government would fulfil the long-felt demand of the people of Satkhira in phases.



CHANDPUR: Delwar Hossain, ADC distributing prizes among the winners of the inter-district annual sports of the high school held here recently. — Star photo

## Former UZ Chairman grabs wheat worth Tk 3.78 lakh

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 9: The district Anti-Corruption Bureau submitted chargesheet against the local Jatiya Party leader and former upazila Chairman, Melandah, Abdul Hai Bachu and five others on charge of misappropriation of 1910 maunds of wheat worth over Taka 3.78 lakh.

The above mentioned wheat was allocated for construction of a road under World Food Programme during Ershad's regime. The other five persons are: Mozammel Haque, Sekander Ali, Majnu Mondal, Abdul Jabbar and Mirza Ruhul Islam.

According to the chargesheet, Abdul Hai Bachu took delivery of 13,85,515 kg of wheat from the government godowns on different dates for the reconstruction of a road from Bashudevpur to Gobindapur via Dewlabari, Sadarpur, Kamdevbari in Nungla union under the World Food Programme. But the former Chairman and others spent only 98,000 kg of wheat for the project and misappropriated the rest amount, 40,515 kg worth over Taka 3.78 lakh as per the government price during 1987-88 fiscal year.

In this connection, a case was lodged with Melanda Police Station by the district

Anti-Corruption Bureau who investigated the matter and submitted chargesheet to Melandah Upazila Court against the accused under section 404/109 of BPC.

The former Chairman of Jamalpur Pourashava, Shakhawatul Moni allegedly misappropriated a huge amount of public money through abuse of power and forgery.

The local people filed several applications to higher authorities including the LORD

## Property worth Tk 7 lakh gutted

MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 9: Property worth about Taka 7 lakh was gutted in a fire at Uttarbar in Kulsura town of the district recently, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the fire originated from a kitchen and soon engulfed the adjacent areas destroying five shops and four houses.

Fire servicemen in cooperation with the villagers brought the fire under control.

## National Children's contest concludes

PATUAKHALI, Mar 9: The district level national children's competition '92 under the auspices of Bangladesh Shishu Academy's district unit concluded here recently, reports UNB.

Academy sources said, 350 children from six upazilas of the district took part.

There were 63 events divided into two parts — sports and cultural.

Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Salahuddin attended the concluding function as chief guest while the Additional District Magistrate AKM Mahbub-ul-Alam presided over it.

Mrs Azizunnesa Salahuddin gave away the prizes.

Ministry and the Prime Minister regarding the embezzlement of public money. They also demanded impartial probe into the matter and requisite punishment for the embezzlement.

The former Chairman by means of forgery and abuse of power grabbed huge amount of wheat from the allocated amount for different development works.

The pourashava took up a plan Taka 4 lakh to set 180 sodium lights last year. The authority allegedly purchased defective lights for which those have come out of order within a very short time.

The chairman allegedly grabbed a handsome amount of money from the purchase of furniture and truck for clearance of garbage. He also took monetary benefit from the contractors of different development works.

The chairman also adopted unfair means in distribution of works among the contractors. The works on the 20 development projects have become defective for use of inferior quality of goods.

The projects include pucca roads, culverts, slabs, pucca bridges, extension of roads and reconstruction of roads.

## Notes from Comilla

COMILLA, Mar 9: Bangladesh Rifles recovered Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 3 lakh from a house in Amongonda village in Chawdhagram upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, a BDR patrol party from Amongonda border outpost raided the house near the border and recovered the goods.

The goods included motor parts, sarees, Phenistyl syrup and other medicines which were later handed over to the local customs authorities.

None has been arrested so far.

## One allegedly killed by assailants

A young businessman of Pehar village in Chandina upazila of the district was allegedly killed by some unknown assailants, police said here recently.

On the fateful night of February 10 while the victim Abdul Khair (32) was asleep in his house he was asked by the miscreants to open the door. On good faith he opened the door only to be shot at.

Later he was rushed to Chandina hospital where the doctors on duty declared him dead.

A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

## Smuggler gets 3 yrs RI

One smuggler was awarded three years rigorous imprisonment by Additional Sessions Judge Nurul Wadud in a judgement recently.

The accused Abul Hashem of village Meghnabad of Devidwar upazila was also fined Taka 1,000, in default, to undergo RI for six months more.

The case, in brief, was that the accused boarded a Dhaka bound bus (Comilla BA 5676) from Meghnabad in Devidwar upazila on October 10, 1990 with a bag in his hand.

Police recovered 29 Indian sarees from his bag and arrested him. A case was lodged and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against him.

## Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

Dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 2 lakh from the house of Suresh Chandra Bhowmik, a newspaper agent of the town recently.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering 15 to 20 equipped with lethal weapons stormed the house and assaulted the inmates, looted gold, cash and other valuables and decamped with the booty.

A case has been lodged with the police but no one has so far been arrested in this connection.

## FP founding day observed

Family Planning Association here held a colourful programme to mark the 39th foundation day of the association recently.

The programme included a baby show, maternity child health services, art competition for children, a seminar and an exhibition of goods produced by family welfare centres of the association.

The seminar was presided over by Aftabur Rahman, Honorary Treasurer of the association while Ali Ahmed, Deputy Director, Family Planning Department, Comilla was the chief guest.

## Wheat stock nil in most godowns

MAGURA, Mar 9: Most food godowns of the district were reportedly without wheat for the last one month forcing a price hike in open market, reports UNB.

When contacted Food Controller said, food godowns stopped supplying wheat to the ration dealers for this reason.

Due to this stoppage of supply, price of wheat has shot up to Taka 13 per kg while rice was selling between Taka 11 and 12 in the open market.

Mentionable that Food for Works Programme in this district may halt within a week due to shortage of wheat.

Twelve canals in four upazilas of the district are being re-excavated in the current dry season, official sources said.

According to official sources, eight canals are being re-excavated under Food for Works Programme and the rest four under self-help basis.

The government has sanctioned 625 metric tons of wheat for reexcavation of eight canals. It is expected that the works would be completed by April next.

After completion of the works, irrigation facilities as well as crop production in four

upazilas of the district would be improved, the sources added.

Angry people barricaded the Dhaka-Khulna Highway near the town halting all vehicular traffic on Sunday to night protesting the killing of a local businessman by a speeding truck.

Witnesses said Mokarram (42) died on the spot and his companion Rasul was seriously injured when the truck hit them from behind at about 10 pm. They were returning home riding a bicycle.

Seriously injured Rasul was rushed to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Police were deployed on the scene to avert any untoward incident but the road blockade put up immediately after the accident was continuing.

## One kidnapped by miscreants

One Arshad Ali (40) of village Bhorua under Sadar upazila was kidnapped by a group of miscreants recently.

According to police sources, the victim went to his paddy field on the day of occurrence and since then he had been missing.

## Malaria claims 9 lives, attacks over 500

PABNA, Mar 9: Malaria claimed 9 lives including three babies and attacked over 500 others in three upazilas of the district over the last three weeks, official sources said, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Ramjan Ali (45), of village Kalachara and Asadul (7), of village Rupst of Shanthia upazila, Abdul Latif (22), of village Demra and Saleha Begum (25), of Kabilakhali, Burjan Leda (25), and Zahruddin (30), of Sujanager upazila and Khokon (6), and Jasmuddin (24), of village Pushoppara of sadar upazila.

Doctors said, mosquito menace was the main cause of the disease.

Masked dacoits armed with lethal weapons robbed Taka 25,000 from a shop at Sutapati in the town on Sunday evening.

The dacoits numbering about eight, raided the shop of Abul Hossain at around 7.30 pm. They blasted some crackers in front of the shop before rushing into the shop.

Customers and salesmen at the shop, horrified by the attack, became more panicky due to darkness caused by power failure at that moment.

The miscreants also exploded some crackers while decamping with the booty.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) won all the 22 seats in

the students union election of the Edward College here.

Kamrul Hasan Mintu and Saiful Islam were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

Eighty four candidates from Jatuyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra League (A-A), Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Moltree contested in the election.

## AL observes Mar 7

KUSHTIA, Mar 9: District Awami League and its front organisations observed the historic 7th March Saturday last in a befitting manner.

On this day in 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech at the then Race Course ground on the eve of Liberation War.

Mirpur upazila Awami League organised a seminar to mark the day. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Advocate Ashraf Ali, Md Motahar Hossain, Md Amjad Hossain, Md Abul Hossain and Md Asabul Hoque.

Town Awami League also organised a seminar on the role of Sheikh Mujib in Liberation war.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Islami University unit, arranged a discussion meeting with Shajahan Alam in the chair.

Alamgir Hossain Khan, Atzul Hasan, Afsar Ali, Anwar Hossain spoke on the occasion.

## X-ray film shortage

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 9: An acute shortage of X-ray film is prevailing in three government hospital and a TB clinic of the district for the last two months.

According to an official source, the existing stock of X-ray film went exhausted in December last. Since then, no fresh stock was supplied despite repeated reminders.

Due to shortage of film, treatment in the hospitals is being hampered seriously. Although physicians are prescribing X-ray diagnosis, the patients are to pay higher rate for doing so in the private clinic at a high price. Poor and fixed income group cannot afford exorbitant rate of X-ray from out side.

In the TB clinic admission new patients remain suspended for the last two months due to shortage of film. Because, X-ray diagnosis is a must for a TB patient.

Civil Surgeon of Gaibandha when contacted told that despite issuing repeated indents and reminder said stock is yet to be reached here but the stock of film will soon be replaced, he assured.

BSS adds: Prospect of different rabi crops is satisfactory in Gaibandha district this year.

An official source said potato has been cultivated in 3,000 hectares with a production target of 30,000 metric tons.

Pulses of different varieties have been cultivated in 4,633 hectares. Production target of pulses has been fixed at 67,582 metric tons.

Agriculture Extension Department source said mustard has been cultivated in 7,000 hectares. China and Kaun will be cultivated in 500 hectares. Production target has been fixed at 458 metric tons.

## Women's Day observed

SHATURIA (MANIKGANJ), Mar 9: Speakers at a discussion on the occasion of the International Women's Day here Sunday last called for making the country's women community aware about their just rights.

They said that this awareness among the womenfolk could be created through making them conscious regarding their rights ensured by law.

The discussion was jointly organised by Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) and a local NGO Social Advancement Centre (SAC).

Presided over by SAC President Mohammad Shahidullah the meeting was addressed by UNO Jacob Chowdhury, Upazila, Social Welfare Officer, Mohammad Ataur Rahman, Tanjina Ahmed of VHSS and Azeeda Begum of SAC.

## Gay girls on increase

SYLHET, Mar 9: Gay girls continue to increase in the district headquarters causing concern among the town dwellers, reports UNB.

These girls living in extreme poverty in villages are pouring into the town for bare survival. Finding no other means of livelihood open, they take resort to immoral activities affecting the youth community.

They are spreading venereal diseases among the youths, local people alleged.

After the sun set, these gay girls are found thronging near Taltoia court ground, Zinda-bazar bus station, rail station, cinema hall and king bridge sides.

Local elite urged the authorities to take necessary steps immediately to check the growing menace.